

avour of these conclusions is not altogether satisfactory, particularly in its statistical aspects. The theory and value of the Rorschach test on which his main results are based are still much under debate. The shifting of epileptics from the symptomatic to the idiopathic group because of their answers to the Rorschach test is a dangerous and arbitrary procedure. His group of symptomatic epileptics is too small to allow of any definite conclusions. These deficiencies do not prevent the author from proclaiming his conclusions in loud and dogmatic tones. His attack on the use of luminal appears to be unjustified by his findings. Nevertheless, the work has many points of interest, and provides a stimulus for further work along the same lines.

ELIOT SLATER.

ütt, Artur (Editor). *Handbuch der Erbkrankheiten*. Vol. 5. Bücklers, M., Clausen, W., Fleischer, B., Harms, H., Jess, A., Löhlein, W., Marchesani, O., Stock, W., Wegner, W. *Erbleiden des Auges*. Leipzig, 1938. Thieme. Pp. xi+310. Price Rm. 26.

THIS is the second volume to appear of the *Handbuch der Erbkrankheiten*, in six volumes. It is a very noticeable improvement on the first volume. The great number of authors ensures that each particular section is dealt with by a specialist in the subject. In addition, the bibliography is very full and is given separately for each subject. The book is adorned with a very large number of plates, many in colour, and large numbers of illustrative family trees. The great importance of heredity in the field of ophthalmology is very well brought out in this massive textbook. The one deficiency is the absence of any general index of authors. The work should indubitably be in the hands of every specialist in ophthalmology. It is to be hoped that succeeding volumes of the *Handbuch* attain this high level of scholarship, comprehensiveness, and practical value.

ELIOT SLATER.

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

La Piere, Prof. R. T. *Collective Behaviour*. London, 1938. McGraw-Hill. Pp. xiii+577. Price 24s.

THIS admirable book is as useful a contribution to social psychology as to sociology. It is a fairly comprehensive and, almost throughout, thoroughly objective study of most social interactions in small or large groups.

There are five parts, the first being a general introduction to collective behaviour, the second dealing with cultural types of interaction, the third with recreational types of interaction, the fourth with control types of interaction and the fifth with escape types of interaction. There are copious examples of these various types of social interactions, e.g. of institutional, conventional, regimental, formal, monothetic, and rebellious behaviour. Much of the material has never hitherto been treated in works of this type.

Each chapter is, broadly speaking, patterned on the same lines. First there is a qualitative discussion of the specific kind of behaviour concerned, then an analysis in terms of ideologies, membership, overt and covert aspects, and leadership. Moreover, each chapter has a very valuable appendix giving a critique of sources and bibliography. These appendices are in many ways the most important contribution of the book.

Particularly striking is the judicious use made by the author of such sources of information and illustration as are provided by newspapers and popular periodicals. This imparts a living, organic touch to the work as a whole; the subject and treatment never become academic or remote from real things.

The method, although the author hopes otherwise, is clearly phenomenological, that is, simply descriptive of the phenomena of social life. The method has been used most fruitfully by Professor Katz in animal psychology and human needs and by Professor Aveling in the study of volitional processes. There is thus no real attempt at a presentation of underlying principles. This is unfortunate and perhaps the chief criticism one has to make. One feels compelled to